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MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN, THE P. & O. COMPANY'S ROUTES, AND THE COAST OF CHINA.

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besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this Work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

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NOTICE.

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 87, HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, AUGUST 2ND, 1876.

A short time since we drew attention to the fact that the Japanese Government had resolved to render it impossible for the natives of the Loo-Choo Islands to pay homage to the Emperor of China for the future. With this design a regulation had been made, that if any Loo-Choo, wished to go to China for business purposes, they must apply for a permit to the Japanese Government. This order has had the effect, we now learn from the Japan Mail, of drawing forth a petition from the Loo-Choo. These poor wretched islanders have been under a dual yoke so long that they are terrified at the thought of being compelled to hold aloof from "Great China," which country they have served, they say, since the year 1372.

They plead their weakness and incapacity to preserve their independence as a reason why they should not be altogether severed from their allegiance to China. "It is not our wish," the petitioners proceed, "that we should serve two masters. Our people are accustomed to say that as Great Japan is our father, and Great China our mother, we should reverently obey them both. Surely there is no place where a child is required to obey its father and mother, the child could not be said to be obedient of virtue and propriety." This document goes on to state that Mr. MATSUO, a duke of the Honmei Department, visited Loo-Choo last year, after the return of the Japanese expedition to Formosa, and informed the islanders that the Chinese Government had handed over a certain sum of money for the families of Loo-Choo who were killed by the Formosans, and that this proved that the islands belonged to Japan. "We doubted this," continues the petitioners, "and in the

steadily made between China and Japan by Okuma we find no clause stating that China had given up to Japan her share in her islands. On the death of the Emperor Dongo and the accession to the throne of the Emperor Kiso, envoys came over from Poochoo and announced the facts to us, and in no way departed from the statement to which we had been accustomed in former days. Mr. MATSUO told us that there was no case known to international law of a country belonging to two Powers at the same time, but when we came to look into this law we found that there were not only instances of one sovereign ruling over many countries, but cases in which one country was governed by several nations. Poland, for instance, is governed by Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The Poles cannot be pleased to be ruled by those three countries, but the sense of necessity compels them to submit." The Loo-Chooans know little of Poland, or of its geographical situation, or they would scarcely have drawn this comparison. Poland does not serve three masters. That most unhappy country was forcibly rent in three pieces, and the fragments were incorporated in the dominions of the spoiler. Loo-Choo, on the contrary, has never been divided, nor is it likely to be. Its former position can best be compared to that of the Isle of Man some centuries back, when it relied for its protection on the jealousies of the surrounding countries. But China, whatever claim it may have had on the allegiance of the Loo-Choo Group in the past, clearly surrendered it when she consented to satisfy the demands of the Japanese Government on behalf of its vassal. Considering this fact, the Chinese Government was bound in honour to refuse to accept tribute from the Loo-Chooans and should at once have released them from any supposed obligation to render it. This, however, it failed to do, and a good deal of trouble has ensued in consequence. The Japanese, on their part, have not, as they should have done, intimated to the Peking Government in a straightforward manner that they consider Loo-Choo as their exclusive appanage, and wish it to be understood that they cannot allow the islanders any longer to offer homage to the Emperor of China. The Loo-Chooans have a right to complain that this has not been done. "If," say they, "the Japanese Government would send an official to China and prevail on the Chinese Government to send an envoy to Loo-Choo announcing that the kingdom belonged to Japan alone, all would be well, for this would show that the Loo-Chooans had not forgotten the former kindness of China." What the particularly kind people are that the people of the Loo-Choo have received from Peking it would be difficult to determine. They are probably grateful for negative kindness, in the Chinese Government not putting pressure upon them to pay a heavy tribute, for the protection granted has been of a very careless description. Geographically the Loo-Choo group are more closely connected with Japan than with China, and the former has the right which successful protection of them against injury undoubtedly gives. But the Japanese Government certainly owes it to the islanders to demonstrate to China in the clearest possible manner that Loo-Choo must henceforth cease to endeavour to serve two masters.

The Bulletin says that, notwithstanding the large Chinese population of Victoria, there are no children among them.

The accidental and Oriental Company's steamer arrived in San Francisco on the 25th inst., having accomplished the passage from Hongkong in twenty-five days.

The mail steamer India did not arrive in Shanghai until the evening of the 25th ultimo. Her late arrival is attributed by a Shanghai contemporary to the gale which had passed over the States, and was no doubt well warranted.

A meeting of justices was held yesterday, at 11 a.m., to consider the application of Captain Michael Long, for the transfer of the spirit house of the British Hotel to him from Mr. McNulty. The justices present were the Hon. C. May, (presiding), Messrs. W. M. Deane, and J. P. Barnes, after a few remarks, the police raising no objection, the transfer was granted.

We have now (says the Daily Atlas) in port a tonnage amply (engaged and disengaged) aggregating 960,000 tons, and there is no sign of abatement. It is the largest tonnage ever aggregated in any one port, and the aggregate of 309,636 tons of which, New York contributes 24,187 tons and other Eastern ports 26,742 tons. From Newcastle, Bagdad, 12,182 tons; from Glasgow, 11,111 tons; from Newcastle, N.W., 12,656 tons; from Sydney, we have 16,240 tons; from Hongkong, 13,616 tons; other ports also make a fair showing, while we will be quite a respectable fleet in to take away all our surplus grain.

The San Francisco Bulletin of the 28th inst. has the following account of the police intelligence:—A Chinese man, named Lee, who was before the Police Court this morning, was charged with having committed a crime, and was fined 50 cents.

Edmond Ward, a married man, on the 28th inst. was fined 50 cents for having committed a crime, and was fined 50 cents.

Richard O'Connell, a married man, on the 28th inst. was fined 50 cents for having committed a crime, and was fined 50 cents.

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SUPREMACY COURT.
 Before Mr. Justice Shaw.

Summary Jurisdiction.
 Before Mr. Justice Shaw.

CLAIM OF A COMMISSIONER.
 Koo Wai Lo, Comptroller of the Customs, vs. Mr. Holmes.

AMENDED DECISION.
 On the 28th inst. the court decided in favour of the plaintiff, Mr. Holmes.

CLAIMS AGAINST A SHIP CAPTAIN.
 On the 28th inst. the court decided in favour of the plaintiff, Mr. Holmes.

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THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND THE CHINA TRADING INSURANCE COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
 Sir,—Your paper of this date contains an account of the meeting of the Chinese members of the unofficial members of the China Trading Insurance Company, which has been held at the offices of the company, and in which the Chairman, Mr. Koo Wai Lo, has been elected.

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